

of technical understanding and proper equipment. Telescope aperture dimension and quality optical design are vital to discerning band numbers at distances sometimes in excess of two hundred yards. Also, recognizing locational and atmospheric problems detrimental to good "seeing" will help overcome a poor success rate. By first logically assessing the obstacles that one might encounter in his or her band reading predicament, the observer can deduce the most suitable equipment for the circumstance. Recognizing situational pitfalls before initiating any band reading attempts will help the observer maximize the utilization of the most likely opportunities and avoid poor scheduling and time wasting. Proper accessory equipment will help maintain the service life of the selected telescope, thus promoting optimum band reading for years to come. Charts and graphs and test targets that are included will help determine the strengths and weaknesses of the various equipment being considered as well as provide insights to theoretical and practical or typical application limits. With a little forethought the most suitable optical equipment will be selected and with a little patience here-to-fore unidentified band numbers will be recorded and a more accurate view of peregrine population dynamics can be achieved.

**SHOULD WE TERMINATE AN "ARTIFICIAL,"
TREE-NESTING RAPTOR POPULATION IN ARIZONA?**

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The Altar Valley in southcentral Arizona was once a tallgrass prairie. Overgrazing prevented fire and spread mesquite, allowing the area, now a savanna, to be heavily used by tree-nesting raptors in summer and heavily hunted by perch-hunting raptors in winter. The breeding raptor community (over 150 pairs) consists primarily of red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*), and Swainson's hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*). Common ravens (*Corvus corax*) are also common and there is a recently discovered small population of black-shouldered kites (*Elanus caeruleus*). Recent efforts to restore the endangered masked bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) to the area clash with habitat needs of the raptors. This conflict focuses attention on the "multiple use" concept and calls for implementation of a "prime use" or "highest and best use" management strategy. Prime use (this is the only area in the United States managed for the masked bobwhite) will likely call for the removal of trees over much of the Altar Valley. This removal will likely result in the nearly total loss of nesting and perching sites for breeding, migrating, and wintering raptors.

**CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS:
PROCESS, SCOPE, AND IMPACT**

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Reduction and fragmentation of wildlife populations and habitats are occurring at a rapid and accelerating rate. As populations diminish in their natural habitat, wildlife managers realize that management strategies must be adopted that will reduce the risk of species extinction. These management strategies must be global in nature, and will include habitat preservation, intensified information gathering, research management, and in some cases, scientifically-managed captive populations that can interact genetically and demographically with wild populations. The Captive Breeding Specialist Group is one of nearly 100 Specialist Groups of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN-The World Conservation Union. CBSG's main strength is in providing a link between *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation efforts. In collaboration with experts in the Species Survival Commission and Bird Life International Specialist Groups, wildlife agencies, the academic community, non-governmental organizations, captive breeding community, and the private sector, CBSG is evolving a series of programs, activities, and partnerships to respond to the challenge of rapidly diminishing biodiversity. One of the programs central to CBSG's function is the Conservation Assessment and Management Plan or CAMP program. This paper discusses the CAMP process and evolution, and the impact of this program.

**RESIDUE LEVELS OF ORGANOCHLORINE CONTAMINANTS
AND SHELL THICKNESS OF EGGS LAID BY KNOWN-AGE
FEMALE OSPREYS IN MICHIGAN DURING THE 1980s**

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Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) nesting on artificial platforms on floodings in central Michigan have been studied intensively for the past 30 yr. We collected unhatched eggs laid by banded females ranging from 3-15 years old during the 1980s, which provided a unique opportunity to investigate any age-related changes in shell thickness or organochlorine contaminant (OC) concentrations. Thinner-shelled eggs had significantly higher concentrations of DDE, but female age was not related to shell thickness. Analysis of variance revealed no significant interaction between OC level and year, or female age class (3-6-yr-olds vs. 7-15-yr-olds), nor between female age and year. Eggs collected in more than one year from the same individual showed no consistent or significant trend in OC levels. These findings indicate that, at least in this population during the 1980s, OC residues in female ospreys had reached an